

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are pending in the application.

- Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,599,613 [hereinafter "Kasahara"]) in view of Wedel et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,573,877 [hereinafter "Wedel"]).

Claims 8-10 are amended to depend from claim 11. Kasahara and Wedel do not teach or suggest the features of claim 11, as evidenced by these references not being applied against claim 11. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8-10 are patentable over Kasahara and Wedel at least due to claims 8-10 depending from claim 11, such that the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

- Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wedel in view of Fukushima et al. (WO 01/45957).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on March 3, 2005, wherein the undersigned attorney and the Examiner discussed claim 11. In particular, the undersigned attorney explained that independent claim 11 recites jetting ink to the first ink permeative layer to form a shape of the symbol; and jetting ink to the second ink permeative layer to exclude an area corresponding to the shape of the symbol.

The applied layer 9 of Wedel is provided to "exclude" an area (i.e., 12) of a symbol, but does not "form" the shape of a symbol, as would be understood from Figure 2 and col. 3., line 55

- col. 4, line 20 of Wedel. At best, one may assert that Wedel teaches the jetting of ink to exclude an area of a symbol; however, the claimed operation of jetting ink to "form a shape of a symbol" is not disclosed. The jetting of ink to form the shape of the symbol, in combination with each other feature of claim 11, is not provided by the art. An exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of this feature is represented by Figure 2B and described on page 10, lines 6-24 of the present specification.

The Examiner agreed that Applicants' position is persuasive, as noted in the Interview Summary dated March 11, 2005. Accordingly, it is submitted that Wedel and Fukushima do not teach or suggest the features of claim 11, and the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 12-14 should similarly be withdrawn at least by virtue of these claims respectively depending from claim 11.

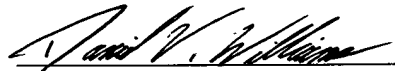
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 10/799,768

Attorney Docket No.: Q80062

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 22, 2004